

CARBURETOR VALVE ASSEMBLY

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to carburetors and more particularly to a throttle valve assembly for a carburetor.

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Background of the Invention

Current throttle valves for carburetors have a metallic cam plate fastened to a metal shaft extending into the carburetor body and upon which a valve head is fixed to control the flow of air through the carburetor in response to rotation of the valve head. The cam plate is engageable with one or more stops on the carburetor body to limit rotation of the throttle valve assembly between idle and wide open throttle positions. The cam plate, shaft and valve head are machined and plated stamped parts. The cam plate is attached to the shaft with either a threaded fastener or by swaging over a portion of the shaft extending through the cam plate. The valve head may be a disc, such as in a butterfly-type valve arrangement, with the disc attached to the shaft with a threaded fastener. The machined or stamped components are relatively expensive to produce. Further, the use of threaded fasteners to connect the valve head to the shaft, and the cam plate to the shaft or the swaging of the shaft onto the cam plate greatly increases the cost, difficulty, time and labor required to assemble the throttle valve assembly.

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Some carburetors have choke valves which may be closed to restrict the flow of air through the carburetor to facilitate starting of an associated engine. The choke valve may have a metal shaft extending into the carburetor body and a metal valve disc attached thereto by a threaded fastener which is received in and rotatable in the fuel and air mixing passage of the carburetor. The valve disc is rotated between a closed position substantially restricting air flow past the valve disc and an open position permitting a substantially unrestricted flow of air through the fuel and air mixing passage. Some choke valves have a plastic one-piece shaft with an integral handle which may be grasped by a user and rotated to move the choke valve between its open and closed positions. The valve disc may be press-fit into a slot formed through the shaft.

Summary of the Invention

A carburetor with a throttle valve assembly having a plastic cam body connected to a plastic shaft which extends into the carburetor body and a valve head received in a slot formed through the plastic shaft. Desirably, the valve assembly eliminates the use of threaded fasteners and the need to swage or otherwise deform any of the components to connect them together. Desirably, the shaft and cam body are constructed and arranged to prevent relative rotation between them. This permits accurate location of the cam body on the shaft and facilitates calibration of the throttle valve assembly between its idle and wide open throttle positions. Further, the characteristics of the throttle valve assembly can be changed by simply providing a

cam body having a different shape or construction with the shaft or valve head being the same for a wide range of carburetors. Still further, the slot in the shaft is preferably longer than the diameter of the valve head so that the valve head may shift axially on the shaft so that it is self-centering within the fuel and air mixing passage.

5 The valve head can preferably also shift laterally relative to the shaft. This greatly facilitates assembly and manufacture of the throttle valve assembly by greatly increasing the tolerances with respect to the location of the valve head on the valve shaft and of the slot receiving the valve head.

Objects, features and advantages of this invention include providing a
10 valve assembly which utilizes a plastic cam body connected to a plastic shaft, permits different cam bodies to be used with the same shaft and valve disc for different carburetors, self-centers and assures smooth movement of the valve disc within the fuel and air mixing passage, is lightweight and inexpensive to manufacture and assemble, eliminates the use of machined or stamped metal components for at least the
15 shaft and cam body, eliminates the use of threaded fasteners or mechanical deformation such as swaging to connect components together, has improved corrosion resistant characteristics, reduces the time and cost to assemble the throttle valve assembly into a carburetor, is reliable, durable, rugged and in service has a long, useful life.

Brief Description of the Drawings

These and other objects, features and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment and best mode, appended claims and accompanying drawings in which:

5 FIG. 1 is an end view of a carburetor having a throttle valve assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the carburetor of FIG. 1;

10 FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken generally along lines 3 - 3 of FIG. 2;

15 FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken generally along line 4 - 4 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a side view illustrating a throttle cam body connected to a throttle shaft;

FIG. 6 is an end view of the cam body and shaft;

20 FIG. 7 is an enlarged end view of the cam body;

FIG. 8 is a cross sectional view of the cam body taken generally along line 8 - 8 of FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary sectional view taken generally along line 9 - 9 of FIG. 7;

25 FIG. 10 is a side view of the throttle shaft;

FIG. 11 is an end view of the throttle shaft;

FIG. 12 is an enlarged fragmentary view of an end portion of the throttle shaft;

FIG. 13 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view illustrating the connection between the throttle shaft and cam body;

FIG. 14 is a plan view of a valve disc; and

FIG. 15 is a side view of the valve disc of FIG. 14.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring in more detail to the drawings, FIGS. 1 – 3 illustrate a carburetor 10 having a throttle valve assembly 12 including a valve head 14 rotatably carried by a shaft 16 within a fuel and air mixing passage 18 of the carburetor 10 to control fluid flow therethrough. Rotation of the throttle valve assembly 12 is typically accomplished by a Boden cable and wire assembly (not shown) which is attached to and drives a throttle cam body 20 connected to the shaft 16 for rotation therewith. The throttle valve assembly 12 rotates from an idle position as shown in FIG. 1, substantially preventing fluid (namely, air) flow through the fuel and air mixing passage 18, and a wide open throttle position permitting a substantially unrestricted flow of fluid through the fuel and air mixing passage 18. In general, as shown in FIG. 3, fuel is discharged into the fuel and air mixing passage 18 from a fuel metering chamber 22 which receives fuel through a diaphragm actuated inlet valve 24 which selectively communicates the fuel metering chamber 22 with a diaphragm-type

fuel pump 26 which draws fuel from a fuel tank for delivery to the fuel metering chamber 22. Fuel discharged from the fuel metering chamber 22 into the fuel and air mixing passage 18 is mixed with air flowing therethrough and is delivered to the engine in proportion to the engine's fuel demand to support engine operation over a wide range of operating conditions. The construction and operation of the fuel metering chamber 22, valve 24, fuel pump 26, and related components may be as disclosed is U.S. Patent No. 4,752,420, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The throttle valve assembly 12 has the shaft 16 which extends through a bore 28 through a body 30 of the carburetor 10 at a right angle to and intersecting the fuel and air mixing passage 18. A split ring retainer 32 cooperates with a groove 34 at a first end 36 of the shaft 16 projecting from the carburetor body 30 to retain the shaft 16 within the body 30. As best shown in FIGS. 5, 6 and 10 - 12, the shaft 16 is generally cylindrical with a second end 38 constructed to be disposed within a complementary recess or passage 40 in the cam body 20. Adjacent the second end, a pair of flat sides 42, 44 are formed on opposite sides of the shaft 16. A groove 46 is formed at least in part around the shaft 16 inboard of its second end 38 and within the area of the flat sides 42, 44. An elongate slot 48 formed through the shaft 16 between its ends 36, 38 is constructed to receive the valve head 14 therein to connect them together. The shaft 16 is preferably formed of a plastic or polymeric material and may be readily molded such as by an injection molding or other molding process.

As best shown in FIGS. 6 – 9, the cam body 20 has a generally tubular barrel portion 50 having a non-circular recess or passage 40 in which the second end 38 of the shaft 16 is pressed to connect the cam body 20 and shaft 16 together. At least a portion of the passage 40 is defined by at least two and preferably four flat surfaces or shoulders 52 which, in assembly, bear on and engage the flat sides 42, 44 of the shaft 16 to prevent relative rotation between the shaft 16 and cam body 20. A plate portion 54 of the cam body 20 extends outwardly from the barrel portion 50 and defines two stop surfaces 56, 58 engageable with associated stops 60, 62 carried by the carburetor body 30 to limit rotation of the throttle valve assembly 12. Preferably, at least one of the stops 60 of the carburetor body 30 is adjustable and as shown, is defined by a conical end of a screw 66 which may be advanced or retracted relative to the carburetor body 30 to change the location of engagement between the cam body stop 56 and the carburetor body stop 60 defined by the end of the screw 66. Accordingly, the circumferential spacing between the stops 56, 58 of the cam body 20 as well the location of the stops 60, 62 on the carburetor body 30 determines the amount of rotation of the throttle valve assembly 12 between its idle and wide open throttle positions. Desirably, a spring 68 which bears on the cam body 20 yieldably biases the throttle valve assembly 12 to its idle position as shown in FIGS. 1 – 3. One or more holes 70 are preferably provided through the plate 54 spaced from the barrel portion 50 to facilitate connection with the wire of the Boden wire cable assembly (not shown) which drives the throttle valve assembly 12 for rotation. A hole 71 may

receive one finger or end of the spring 68 which yieldably biases the throttle valve assembly 12 to its idle position.

As best shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, to retain the cam body 20 on the shaft 16 and prevent their inadvertent separation, the cam body 20 has at least one and preferably a plurality of barbs or tabs 72 extending radially inwardly from an inner wall 74 of the barrel 50 into the passage 40. In assembly, the cam body 20 is pressed onto the shaft 16 until the tabs 72 pass over the second end 38 of the shaft 16 and are received within the groove 46 adjacent to the second end 38 to retain the cam body 20 on the shaft 16 with an interference fit. The cam body 20 is preferably formed of a plastic or polymeric material and may be molded separately from the shaft 16 to permit different cam bodies to be used with the same shafts for different carburetor applications. Alternatively, the shaft 16 and cam body 20 may be integrally formed together in one piece to eliminate the need for the structures preventing relative rotation between the shaft 16 and cam body 20 and the structures retaining the them together.

As best shown in FIGS. 4, 14 and 15, the valve head 14 is preferably a generally flat circular plate or disc which may be formed of a metallic or polymeric material. The valve head 14 has a plurality of raised, inclined retainer tabs 80, 81 preferably integrally formed therewith. Desirably, as shown in FIG. 15, the tabs 80, 81 are laterally spaced from the center of the valve head 14 and have ramps 82 leading to opposing stop surfaces 84 constructed to bear on the throttle shaft 16 to retain the

valve head 14 in the slot 48 of the shaft 16. In assembly, the valve head 14 is pressed or pushed into the shaft 16 until the tab or tabs 80 on one side of the valve head 14 are forced through the slot 48 and the shaft 16 is received between the opposed laterally spaced tabs 80, 81. Desirably, due to the inclined or ramp surfaces 82 of the tabs 80, 81 it is relatively easy to push the valve head 14 into the slot 48 in shaft 16. However, it is difficult to remove the valve head 14 from the shaft 16 due to the abrupt stop surfaces 84 which oppose such movement of the valve head 14. Accordingly, inadvertent separation of the valve head 14 and shaft 16 is prevented.

Desirably, the valve head 14 is slidably carried by the shaft 16 so that it is self-centering within the fuel and air mixing passage 18. To accomplish this, the slot 48 formed in the shaft 16 preferably has a length greater than the diameter of the valve head 14 to permit shifting of the valve head 14 axially relative to the shaft 16. The slot also has a length at least equal to and preferably greater than the diameter of the fuel and air mixing passage 18 with the slot 48 spanning the entire fuel and air mixing passage 18 so that the valve head 14 is self-centering therein. Further, to permit lateral shifting of the valve head 14 relative to the shaft 16 and thereby further enable the valve head 14 to center itself in passage 18, the distance between the stop surfaces 84 of the opposed laterally spaced tabs 80, 81 is preferably greater than the outer diameter of the shaft 16. In this manner, the tolerances of the valve head 14 and shaft 16 are greatly increased to facilitate their manufacture and assembly both with respect to each other and their assembly into the carburetor 10.

The shaft 16, cam body 20 and valve head 14 may be formed from any suitable polymeric material with currently preferred materials including, without limitation, acetal copolymers such as those sold under the trademarks Delrin 500 and Celcon M-90. The valve head 14 may also be formed of brass or other metal.

5 Desirably, the throttle valve assembly 12 can be assembled without the use of any fasteners, adhesives or the like. Further, the use of machined, stamped or other costly to manufacture components can be at least substantially reduced, and preferably eliminated. Still further, the valve head 14 and shaft 16 can be used with a wide range of cam bodies 20 to increase the versatility of the throttle valve assembly 12 for a wide range of carburetors 10 and engine applications. Accordingly, the cost to manufacture and assemble the throttle valve assembly 12 itself as well as to install the throttle valve assembly 12 into a carburetor 10 is significantly reduced. The polymeric materials are also cheaper and have greater resistance to corrosion than their metal counterparts.